

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07

TRSE-00 AID-05 MC-02 OMB-01 SAM-01 /073 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 198

INFO JCS/ISA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, MILI, EG, PFOR

SUBJECT: EMBASSY/CONTRACTOR CONTACT WITH GOE OFFICIALS REGARDING
EQUIPMENT SALES FOR POTENTIAL MILITARY APPLICATIONS

1. EMBASSY PERSONNEL ARE RECEIVING INCREASED
NUMBER OF REQUESTS FROM BOTH U.S. CONTRACTORS AND
EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS FOR OFFICIAL INTRODUCTIONS IN ORDER
TO PROMOTE DISCUSSIONS ON EVENTUAL SALES OF U.S.
EQUIPMENT FOR MILITARY APPLICATIONS. THE EQUIPMENT
INVOLVED RUNS THE SPECTRUM FROM PURELY OFF-THE-SHELF
COMMERCIAL ITEMS SUCH AS LITTON LTN-72 INERTIAL NAVI-
GATION EQUIPMENT TO LETAHL MILITARY HARDWARE SUCH
AS CESSNA A-37 AIRCRAFT. WE ATTRIBUTE THIS INCREASED
ACTIVITY TO RECENT PRESS SPECULATION REGARDING NEAR
TERM SALES OF U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO EGYPT.

2. TO DATE EMBASSY HAS DECLINED TO OFFER ASSISTANCE
TO EITHER CONTRACTORS OR EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS IN
ARRANGING INTRODUCTIONS FOR THESE PURPOSES, BECAUSE
TO DO SO WOULD LEND AN OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT. MORE-
OVER, UNLESS WE CAN BE SURE OF MUNITIONS CONTROL (MC)
APPROVAL, WE RUN RISK OF RAISING UNJUSTIFIED
EXPECTATION THAT SUCH SALES WOULD BE ALLOWED. SHOULD
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IT LATER DEVELOP THAT MC APPROVAL WILL NOT BE GIVEN,

WE WOULD BE ACCUSED OF MISLEADING EGYPTIANS.

3. EMBASSY IS AWARE THAT SUBJECT OF ARMAMENTS SALES TO EGYPT IS UNDER COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW IN WASHINGTON AT HIGHEST LEVELS. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT CLEAR HERE EXTENT TO WHICH COMMERCIAL ITEMS FOR POTENTIAL MILITARY USE ARE AFFECTED BY THIS REVIEW. AS TIME GOES ON SITUATION IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT. WE ARE NOT BEING HELPFUL TO U.S. CONTRACTORS AND, AT SAME TIME, ARE CREATING QUESTIONS FROM OUR GOE CONTACTS WHICH WE ARE UNABLE TO ANSWER.

4. REQUEST GUIDANCE ON POSITION TO BE TAKEN WITH REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM U.S. BUSINESSMEN, PARTICULARLY THOSE WISHING TO MAKE CONTACT WITH EGYPTIAN MILITARY FOR SALE OF OFF-THE-SHELF COMMERCIAL EQUIPMENT.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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